

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0002] with the following amended paragraph:

[0002] In a general form of a regenerative air-conditioning system, as shown in FIG. 9, from a thermal storage tank 6, water is fed to air-conditioning loads (A. H.) 9 such as a heat source machine or a fan coil via a pump 7, and water passed through the air-conditioning load 9 is led into the thermal storage tank 6 via a return pipe line 10. This is referred to as an open return process. The open return process is used in a case where an actual pump head is less than 20 m. When the air-conditioning system comes to a stop, water supply from a feed pump is stopped. However, in the open return process, water freely falls in the vertically rising return pipe line, that is, water drops under the gravity. A siphon effect by the dropping water causes the pressure in the pipe line to be negative so as to induce cavitation-is produced, and noise, vibration, and corrosion result-are-caused. To eliminate these problems, a vacuum breaker 12a is installed to prevent the pressure in the piping from becoming negative. An energy recovery apparatus for an open return type regenerative air-conditioning system is described in JP-A-63-297949. A structure is shown in FIG. 11.